

J. Vasey

S Q M E

1183

PROPOSALS

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the

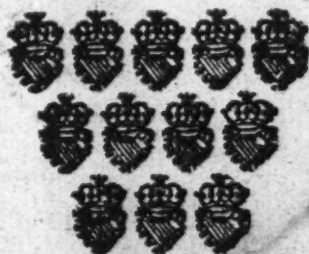
Parliament:

K. Ireland

For the

Advancement of LEARNING.

fungar vice Cotis Accutum
Reddere, &c. ————— Hor.



D U B L I N :

Printed by S. P. at the Sign of the Crown (formerly the Crown-Tavern) in Fishamble-street,
MDCGVII.

1810

1810

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

SIR,

Since every thing is upon the Reform, why not Learning; I am sure it wants it as much as our Religion, or Manners, or Fashions, or Laws, and if ever it be Reform'd why not by your Assistance: I know your Inclinations are as Good, and your Regard for the *Liberal Sciences* as great as any Man's. 'Tis for these Reasons I have ventur'd to lay before You these three things.

I. That our Deficiencies herein are remarkable to all the World but our Selves.

II. That the Reason hereof is owing to our Negligence and want of due Encouragement of some of the *Sciences*.

And

III. If I can but propose some Method whereby this may be redressed without Detriment to the Nation, I shall put you in a way of doing a lasting good to your Country, and obliging your Posterity for Generations to come. We are all very Quick-sighted in spying out the Defects of Trade, and as Industrious in Redressing of them. We have abundance of Emulation this way, and are as Jealous of all that Rival us herein as any of our Neighbours whatever, the Care of our Estates and Traffick have taken up a considerable part of Your Time, and I hope will Answer all your Trouble. But the Defects of the Mind have been as far beneath our Care, as above our Observation, tho' perhaps it might be Time as well spent and Treasure as well laid out in Cultivating our Heads as well as our Acres, and in Trying some Means of Raising Great Men as well as Great Estates. It must be Confest that we enjoy all the Products of Nature that a Serene Air and a Fertile Soil can bless us with in great abundance, every thing seems Prolifick of it's kind in high perfection, only the products of the Brain, if we may believe the Censures of others, are but of a slow Growth and Diminutive Stature, a short-live'd Race and uncertain Generation, a Fairy Breed, for which our Island has been so Famous, that like Phantom's appear for a while and perhaps may become the Dress, and Mein,
and

and Size they affect, which seldom rises higher than that of Burlesque, Lampoon, or Dogrel Rhyme, or Droll, or Farce, or short-liv'd Comedy at best. And whilst the Learned World has every where appeared in the greatest Lustre and Gaity about us, we alone have been content to be gentle Spectators, and humbly admire the Labours of others, without doing any thing of our selves; so that it has been the common Observation of all those that have thought us worth their Notice, that here alone the *Sciences* run low, Curiosity is asleep, and we are Famous for nothing so much as doing nothing at all. Tho' this be an hard Censure which partiality perhaps may make us loath to believe, yet the matter of Fact against which there is no Argument, if we please to look back, will make but too manifest to an Impartial Eye; and I believe a Collection of our *Musæ Hibernicæ*, or *Acta Eruditorum* of the last Century, wou'd put the most Partial Defenders of our Country to the blush; Therefore since our weak-side is but too visible to others, tho' the heaviest part of the Wallet be happily placed behind, it can't but be worth our while in the Second place to Enquire into the Reasons of it, which perhaps may not be so obvious as to strike every ones sense; for since the Effect is not discernable by all, the Cause may very well lye more concealed. Is it our want of Leisure, Inclination, or Abilities? Or is it because we know so much, that we have nothing further to desire? Or that our Appetites herein are so Moderate we are Easily satisfied? Or that our Heads are taken up with more agreeable Entertainment? And the Designs of growing Rich and Great supercede those of being Good and Useful? Or is it the Ignorance of our wants that gives us this happy Satisfaction, or an inbred Modesty and distrust of our selves, that makes all our best Performances Abortive, and suffers none to Escape but those that steal their Birth as well as Generation: Whether any or all of these may be Instrumental to keep us down, I shall neither Determine nor Debate; but there is one blemish I wou'd gladly wipe off that's charg'd upon us by some who look no further then the Effect, without enquiring into the Cause. I shou'd be very unwilling to believe that our Native Country were capable of no better a Product, that our Heads, were limited as well as our Shores, and our Sphere of Activity clogg'd
by

by the softness of the Air we breath. That we should be inevitably stupid to a jest, and sluggish to a Proverb, and that the God of Sloath shou'd be charg'd upon us as the only Garth's Tutelary Genius of our Island, without the least shew of Reason. Poem. sentiment. No we have had Instances enough to wipe off all these Scandals both in Church and State, and have some at present in the Field too, Inferior to none of their Neighbours, so that Nature has not been so unkind as some wou'd suggest if we had been as Industrious to Improve what she has so freely bestowed; But here we shall encounter some Difficulties we can't lay this home without a seeming charge of Negligence upon our selves, which every Body will be sure to ward off with all the Art they can, tho' some perhaps may take themselves to be hurt before they be touch't, others that are more in the fault may think themselves wholly unconcerned. Far be it from me to entertain any mean Opinion of the place of my Education, to which I owe more than I shall ever be able to return. We have indeed a Flourishing University, as well Endowed as most of its Numbers in *Europe*; And filled with as Learned and Worthy Men, who answer the end of their Pious Founders as well as any of their Profession Abroad: But to deviate from their Statutes were to break their bounds and undermine those Pillars by which they are supported: Their first Institution was wholly designed to Propagate the Reformed Religion, in opposition to a Powerful Faction of Priests and People, who own no Subjection to any Potentate on Earth, except that Great High Priest of all the World who has got the Absolute Dominion of their Souls and Consciences, and he that has got possession of their Heads can't want their Hands whenever he pleases to Command. Therefore it was thought necessary by our Wise Government to Erect a Society, whose Care and Study shou'd be to stem the Torrent of this Religious Folly, and diswade an easy People from being imposed upon by the Crafts of such Men as these; which end they have sufficiently answered both by their Lives and Arguments; but this Limitation which was so necessary then, deprives us still of two great Branches of Learning so much Cultivated by all the World besides, that I can boldly affirm there is no Civilized Nation in the World of how small Extant soever, this only excepted; Nay, in some Parts of *Europe* not one

particular City but is better provided with these two necessary parts of Education; I mean the *Civil-Law* and *Physick*. By which I wou'd not be thought to understand only that part of the *Civil Law* that terminates in the Ecclesiastick Courts; whose utmost Bounds are Tyths, Testaments, and Scandal; nor that part of *Physick* only that aims at the Apothecaries File, tho' this be of far greater use, and much more Neglected; but the Foundations of both these that Natural Philosophy that has Raised our Knowledge so much above the Antients, that we can see now plainly what they never Dream't of; however redicul'd by some lavish Wits not worth our Notice. And that Law of Nature and Nations that has made so many Great Men, and rais'd so many Powerful People, these are the two things wanting, and not only neglected in our University but forbid by their Statutes to all of the Foundation, Except one for the *Civil-Law*, and another for *Physick*, who have neither of 'em any thing to do, nor any thing to have, without which they are not like to make any great Progreſs.

This I hope won't be thought any Reflection upon those whose Tongues are tyed up, and whose Studies are confin'd, but rather upon those that don't provide for their Enlargement. And these two together, with a third which I shall touch upon hereafter, I take to be the true Causes of our Deficiencies. It is not the Barren Brain but want of due Culture; we are rather upon the other Extreme, we have some luxuriant shoots that want pruning rather than Manure, we have some Heads as Prolifick as our Soyl, more Branch then Stem, more Leaves than Fruit, more Wit then Sense, more Humour than Wit. Now if these forward Buds were at first kept back, till they were come to more Substantial Growth, if these Spritly Fancies were allay'd with the principles of Right Reason, and entertain'd in the Speculation of Nature; This by comparing themselves with other Parts of the Creation, wou'd soon let 'em see how vain a thing it is they so much admire, and the other, I mean the Rudiments of the Laws, where Reason is more employed then Fancy, where Judgment and Vertue are both equally inculcated and improved, and the Nice Limits of Right and Wrong whet the Wits as well as settle the Understanding; this wou'd take off
that

that keen Edge that perhaps may cut a Feather, but turns upon any thing of Substance or Solidity, this wou'd add Weight to their Wings and Ballast to their Sails, and fill their Heads with something more then Froth, and Noise and Humour, and Conceit, the two constant Attendants of a Youthful and unbounded Fancy. And when the Mind is tender and capable of any Impression the Choice of the Stamp is of no small Moment.

I need not here attempt a Panagerick upon those Laws that raised the *Roman Empire* more then their Arms, and Defended their Cities better then their Walls, and have yet survived 'em both: Those Laws whose Universal Reception sufficiently Proclaim their Worth, having gained upon the World as far as they have been known, and been divulged as far as the *Greek, Latin, and Arabick Tongues* can carry 'em, in the last — by Command of a great Mahomet 2^d Prince who thought the *Imperial Codes* the Choicest plunder in *Constantinople*, and upon them laid the strongest Foundation of the present *Turkish Empire*; those Laws which turn the Scale of Justice more by the weight of Reason than the Sanction of Authority or Prejudice of Custom, and will still maintain their force in spite of all the discouraging Edicts of *Popes and other *Princes, who to raise the Credit of their own Common and Municipal Laws, or rather to Promote that they call Religion, have Prohibited their Reading in several Nations in vain. For that Spiritual Monarch who pretends to give Laws to all the World besides, where his own Cannons (which are but a Collection out of these) fall short, is forced to Condescend to their Assistance, if *Suares* be of any Authority; and it is not many Ages since the Study of these Laws prevailed so far in no less an University than that of *Oxford*, that several great Men, I can't say how wise, thought it deserved a Publick Reprimand lest it shou'd stifle the rest of the *Sciences*; so bright is the Face of Justice when unvail'd that she seems to be hid more to prevent Adoration than for fear of Partiality. And tho' the want of these Laws amongst us be happily supplied by the Municipal Laws of our own Nation, which are managed so well by Men of the most polite Parts and Learning, that whilst we keep within the Limits of our own Government we feel no great want of 'em, yet when we come to deal with other Nations we must have recourse to

Mahomet 2^d

*Innocent 4.
*Honourius 3.

King Stephen
Charles the 9.
H. 3. of
France.

to those **Laws** which **Command** their **Assent** by the **Con-**
viction of **Reason**, which are not **Confined** to **Time** and
Place, but **Calculated** both for **Sea** and **Land**, and **An-**
swer all the **Exigences** both of **Peace** and **War**, and per-
 haps would reach some faults before you now, which you
 may have good **Testimony** to discover, but have no **Law**
 to **Punish**. And I believe I may at least have this much
 granted me by those that are the most **Partial** **Defenders** of
 our own **Laws**, that if the **Foundation** were laid by the
Study of the **Civil** **Laws** they wou'd make both better **Men**
 and better **Councillors**; the reasonableness of *Littleton's*
Tenures wou'd more plainly appear and *Cook's Comment* be
 Easier understood, or less wanted; besides in these all the
Cardinal **Vertues** are displayed in all their **Branches**, their
Daily **Debates** and constant **Lectures** are a **Moral** **Catechism**;
 where all the **Duties** to our **Creator**, to our **Neighbour**,
 and to our **Selves**, that **Natural** **Religion** which **Heaven**
 has stamp'd upon every **Human** **Soul**, are constantly
Inculcated; and I believe I may **Challenge** all the **World**
 to shew me but one **Great** **Genius** who has left any thing
 worth keeping to **Posterity** for this 1700 **Years**, that has
 not made some **Considerable** **Progress** in one, or both of
 these two useful parts of **Learning**.

But let us take it for granted that the **Wisdom** of our
Legislators has sufficiently compensated for the **Defects** of
 these **Laws**, yet the deplorable State of *Physick* deserves
 your **Compassion** and **Relief**; As for the other **Parts** of
Natural **Philosophy** however serviceable they may be, both
 in **discovering** the latent **Riches** of our **Country**, and in
 making those we know more useful because they do not so
 directly touch us to the **Quick**. I shall not so much insist
 upon 'em, but Skin for Skin what wou'd a **Man** do for his
Life. I thank **God** I am in **Health** now, and hope I shall
 always continue in my **Senses**, and whilst I have them,
 the **Acquaintance** I have contracted with some considera-
 ble **Men** in that **Faculty** will secure me from the danger of
 others bold attempts; but if those shou'd once fail I know not
 what **Infallible** **Doctor** may come to give me the *Coup de*
Grace. For I shall have some about me whose fears will
 make 'em flee to any thing for **Succour**; and if a **Midwife**
 or **Nurse** can but tell of any in my **Condition** who was **Cur'd**
 by one that talked above their **Capacity**, and promised more
 than

then all of his Profession cou'd perform I shall be sure to feel the weight of his Hand; And we don't want Numbers of such Pretenders, nor ever shall, as long as you have neither Encouragement for the Study of Physick, nor restraint for it's Abusive practice. We don't use to commit a Ship in a Storm to one that never stood at the Helm, nor a Battalion in the Field to one that never understood Military Exercise, nor wou'd any one attempt it because he might bear a part in the Common Ruin. But we can do as foolish things in Miniture. We can leave an helpless Mortal at his last Gasps to one who has no more pretence to the Art of Physick than a Cutler has to the Art of War, or a Bookseller to Divinity, unless he has the good Fortune to have his knowledge extraduce, or be born a Seventh Son. We don't proceed thus in every thing, nor any thing else. The Pulpit and the Bar are sufficiently Guarded by Laws of their own making, no one dares to mount the one or leap over the other, without the previous Approbation of their Seniors in the same Faculty. Nay, your *Shoe-makers* and *Taylors* are sufficiently secur'd against all Incroachments, and the dressing of a Calf-Skin, or Weaving a Flece of Wool have been of more regard than the Life of the Subject when most in danger. Is every Hide worth your care but your own? We have generally some kind Resentments for these perishing Carcasses of ours, as well as for our Possessions in this World, or our hopes of the next; but we take such awker'd Methods to express 'em that the Monkey that hugg'd her Brat to the last gasp is no faint Resemblance of our Care.

But why should we not in this Age of Liberty have our own way of going out of this World, as well as going into the next. Truly the Ballance stands pretty even, and I shall not add much to turn the Scale; only the latter seems to have more weight in it; for in this every Body hears, and sees, and knows what is done, and they are Answerable to the Government for what is said or done amiss; but in the other a Dose is given in secret very often no body knows what or wherefore, nor shall ever any one be Answerable for it prove the Effect what it will: Besides, there are more Competent Judges of the performance of the Pulpit than the Practice of Physick; In the first every Man of

good Natural Parts can give a tollerable Sentence, but in the nature of Diseases and Medicines the best Genius without labour is no better a Judge then a *Poet* of *Mathematics*, or a *Tarpanian* of *Epic Poesie*; and there are so few that have taken pains this way that the Physicians have but an uncertain Bench to appeal to; the Vulgar indeed are not able to Judge, when they are sinking, a Bulrush or Cable are Equally laid hold on; 'tis Chance, not Judgment, that determines their Choice; Therefore they want more your pity and direction, but there wants not a Vulgar too of the highest Rank, who in this Case are very often imposed upon as Easily as the most Ignorant; some there are that never look further then the Event, and because Mankind is born to Dye, and sometimes goes off under the care of the Learned as well as by the bold strokes of the Ignorant without Examining, wherefore presently Conclude they are all alike, and Destiny or Chance must answer for all Events; others are for an Infalible Doctor, and he that can't do every thing must know nothing. A third sort perhaps have given their Heads a fling at Physick, and because they are fallen short, (for a Reason too near to be toucht upon) presently conclude there is nothing in't at all, these see thro' all Sciences at first view, and then laugh at all that pretend to any thing beyond their ken: And 'tis observable that none despise it more then those that know but little, and think that little is all that's to be known which holds true in more Professions then this, and I fear has made more Infidels in Divinity then Scepticks in Physick:

These are some of the discouraging Circumstances this Profession labours under; and unless you take care to Countenance it's Studys and Restraine it's Practice the next Age will suffer more then this, at least you must be oblig'd to your *Northern Neighbours*, where I must own (too our Credit be it spoken) are more Advantages for these Studies than this Kingdom affords; and whilst 2 or 3 Years hammering at *Aberdeen*, and as many Months furbishing at *Leyden*, will suffice. You can't Expect many Visitants from better Universities, where 4 or 5 times the Labour and Years are required for their Qualifications: Nor is it to be supposed that whilst as little Time and Study, and perhaps

haps less Expence will suffice, to dress up a Candidate for the most Gainful, as well as the most Honourable Posts in the Kingdom, any Man of Tolerable Sense will Condescend to such a slavery, and without it Attempts at Physick, are as much in vain as at any of the other Professions. It must be Confest that the Extravagant Gains of some 2 or 3 in the Nation may be a Bait to the rest, and the Richest part of the Kingdom (for these can't live in a barren Soyl) may be over-stockt, whilst all the rest lyes unregarded; but if once the Studies were made Easy and Cheap, the Practice would be so too, if there were Numbers to Plant you might be in hopes to see 'em disposed and settled by Publick Funds.—And Authority as well, tho' not as thick, as the Clergy, to take Equal care of the Poor and Rich as they do. But we are not so well furnish'd if there were this Provision made, for tho' this City have more Apothecaries than Parishes, or any other Metropolis in Europe except London and twice as many Doctors as Apothecaries yet the Number of Physitians is as Moderate as in most other Places of it's Compass, and without your help is like so to continue, for you must never expect 'em of your own Growth, as long as our University is imperfect, the Sciences are so Maimed, and all that you can make of the College in its present State is but a good Divinity School at best.

And now you have seen the Deficiencies of the great School of the Nation, it may not be amiss to take a transient view of the little Ones. I don't mean those that are or ought to be in every Parish, to put the Natives in a Capacity of being good Subjects as well as good Christians, without which it's impossible to be either; since out of these I don't expect to raise many great Men, at least for this present Age; therefore I shall leave 'em to the Care of the Clergy, whose Business it is, either by Teaching one Language, or Learning another, to prevent their being Pagans, if ever this Generation of Priests shou'd pass away; but the Schools I mean, are those Preparative to the University, which tho' we have some, and I believe I may truly say, more good School-Masters than good Schools; yet their Numbers are so few, and their Regulations so remiss, that one good one might go near to Answer for 'em.

'em all ; the reason of this is, because they either have no Statutes, or if they have, they are prest upon by the forwardness of the Youth, and in Schools near the College, which otherwise would be the best (where young Tutors, and young Pupils, like good Wits, jump, and one is as fond of a Numerous Flock, no matter of what Cattle, as the other is of getting from under the lash) the young Fry are Fish'd out before they are able to feed themselves ; which is often help'd on by the Mothers Fondness of seeing her Son in a Gown, which the next Vacation Entitles him to a long Wigg, and all its attendant Fopperies, so the Boy is made a Man too soon, which sometimes make the Man a Boy for Life.

But these want more Regulation then Endowments, and by the present Care of Admission into the College, will soon be redress'd ; if they could be prevailed upon to wait till they were perfect Masters of the Languages, the *Greek* and *Roman* Historians, and the *Classicks*, which wou'd make the Sciences more Easie and Entertaining, they wou'd then choose according to their Genius and Inclination, and Charge their Heads with such Materials, as they are best able to set off, for there is variety of Furniture for Heads, as well as Houses, the Merchants Store and Toy-shops, are equally expos'd to their Choice, and he that lays in too soon is very apt to furnish himself from the latter ; besides, to the Care and Good Management of these our Principles of Religion and Mortality, as well as Learning are mostly due, for whilst we are govern'd by Sense more than Reason, which very often lasts longer than our Infancy, the Precepts of the School will be of more Efficacy then those of the Pulpit or Academy, and the lash of the Rod make deeper Impressions than those of the Tongue.

As for that Modish Fashion of Education by way of *French* Valet, which has obtain'd so much amongst the Gentry and Nobility of late, 'tis no more purpose to spake against it, than it would be to Rail at Fringe or Furbelows ; but Fashions with us have their Periods, especially those that have so little Use, and it is to be hoped that by that time it has Ruined one half of the Nobility, the other may have their Eyes open, at least those that have suffered by

by it themselves, will take care their Children shall not run the same Risque.

But now my hardest Task is yet to come, our Faults and Imperfections require no quick sight to discover; but they are not so easily redressed, especially since this can't be done without some present Expence, which I promised you shou'd be no detriment to the Nation, but if I cou'd persuade you as well as I can my self, that whatever is expended this way, wou'd bring in more then 10 *per Cent.* my Work were done, for that's the only Cogent Argument to them that carry the Bag. Now to state this Case aright, we shou'd first see what Expences we are at for want of these Conveniencies, and then, what Advantage it wou'd be to the Nation if we had 'em: and here I must desire you to Consider, that what is expended out of every private Purse, is as certain a loss to the Publick as if the Treasury were Robb'd, for without this Application, no one will think himself concerned but he that empties his Pockets; now suppose there goes out of the Nation every Year but half a Dozen for the benefit of these Studies, these can't spend less then 100*l.* a-piece besides the hazard they run of their Lives, their Morals and Religion, which we find have sometimes suffer'd by Foreign Education, now that which maintain'd half a Dozen Abroad wou'd keep three times the Number at Home, and the Nation be no more worse than he that tells out his Cash from one Bag into another; but instead of this Expence, you may very reasonably turn the Scale and reckon upon the Profit, instead of sending your Youth Abroad, you may expect to invite Foreigners hither; you have *Leyden* for a President, who vend their Degrees as Current as other Sophisticated Wares to any that will bid the Price, and make more Annual Profit of their Diploma's, than most Towns you have do of their Manufacture, and you have a much better Scituation for these Studies than that, or either of the two famous Universities of *England*; you have a Populous Town and several considerable Hospitals at hand, where the young Students in Physick may be timely and safely introduced to Practice, you have the Courts of the Kingdom where they may constantly hear all the Debates of the Laws; you have a Concourse of Foreigners which may bring them acquaint-

ted with the rest of the World. Add to all these, the plenty of all things necessary for Life, and I think you cou'd not pitch upon a better Scituation if you had all things to begin anew. So that it wants nothing but your Encouragement to make this as famous for these Studies as any of it's Neighbours you have sufficiently discovered your good Inclinations to the University already, and I question not, but if you wou'd bestow as much in imploying their Heads as you have done in raising their Walls, it wou'd fully as well answer your expectation; and a moderate allowance for half a score young Gentlemen to perfect their Studies in these Faculties, and that these shou'd only continue for a stated time, and with such other limitations and assistance as may be thought fit by a select Number of competent Judges which might easily be found out, wou'd be no great Charge to the Publick, and in a little time supply most of our defects; this wou'd be the likeliest Method of reviving the *Ars Veterinaria* or *Mulo-Medicina* so long neglected by the Learned, for variety of Inclinations wou'd produce variety of Studys, and some of these might make it their Entertainment as well as Business, to take care of the Beasts that are so Serviceable to Mankind.

Such a Constitution as this, wou'd be an Encouragement to Studies, and a Spur to Industry, they wou'd make use of their time when they know it's limitted, and fit themselves to be sent Abroad when they know they can't stay at Home; and that Age is not so much set upon Gain, but that moderate Salaries meeting with generous Dispositions, might easily prevail with 'em to follow what Studies are most agreeable to their Inclinations, for that Serenity of Mind, without which all attempts at Learning are in vain, consists in a happy mean above the fear of want,

want, and below that of superfluity, the height of Preferment, and Affluence of all we can desire, is as unfit a Station for the labour of the Brain, as an abject state of indigence and want of rest, and we often find that some Heads are as easily overlet by the gingle of a Coach, as others are by the rattle of a Drum, which tho' at first sight may appear to be Engines of different use and figure, yet too often produce the same effects.

But here is one Objection, which if not Answered, may take off a great part of my Argument. What redress or advantage can the Study of the Laws recieve here, whilst we are obliged to our Neighbouring Nation both for our Education and Qualifications therein? to which I Answer, That most of the Accomplishments may be acquired here, and then the Qualification will neither cost much Time nor Expence, besides you know not what Alterations the present Revolution may produce, you have some Bills now before you, which will make no small Change in the present Laws, and who knows what may succeed; The Union of a Nation already Governed by the Civil Law, together with the Expediting of Justice, and Redress of several Grievances which our Statute and Common Laws won't reach, may bring on a greater change in the Neighbouring Kingdom, than every one imagines, or any one can foresee; but admit there be none at all, the accomplishment of the Gentry, and putting their Heads into a way of Study, may be a sufficient Argument to enforce your care; all Men don't labour with that narrowness of Spirit and slavish Temper of private Gain, we have some whose generous Dispositions and plentiful Fortunes have raised 'em above these mean designs; how many worthy Gentlemen do I now know, whose natural Endowments might have qualify'd 'em for the Service.

vice of their Country, in any Capacity, if these Studies had been in Fashion when they past their Probation Years in the College, but now their time lies heavy upon their Hands, and for want of more useful Entertainments their Active Genius's impatient of Idleness don't always set their Head the right way; These if well set on wou'd make the greatest Patriots, and best Representatives of their Country. These wou'd be the likeliest Champions to free you from the burden of some *Customs*, I can't give them the name of *Laws*; which are none of the least Tax upon the *Nation*, which tho' not felt by all, strike heavy where ever the blow lights: These wou'd do more than all the Bills you can frame for Amendment of the Laws, and be both able and willing for their own Interest to see your Acts worded with that Strength and Perspicuity, as to prevent all Cavil and Evasion.

But such Men as these are of no Mushroom Growth; the next Age may reap the Fruit of your Plantation; as well in this as in other Faculties, wherein the Methods of Redress have been hitherto mistaken and and Ineffectual; you may perhaps have some who have formerly given you trouble upon this Subject, and whose Interest it is to Monopolize the Practice to themselves, will tell you that the only way to Encourage and Regulate the Practice of Physick is immediately to suppress all those that can't pretend to as good Authority as themselves; but these begin at the wrong end; 'Tis Prudence before we pull down an Old House to provide Marterials for a new one; not that I think such Interlopers are better than none at all. But since as long as there are Men there will be Diseases, as long as Diseases they will Extort Complaints, and whilst there are Complaints, there will be some to attempt their Relief; they that know
but

but little may do less mischief than those that know nothing ; and a Sea-Surgeon, or broken Apothecary may be some degrees above a Midwife or Nurse-keeper ; so that the most Natural Method seems first to Encourage the Studies, and then you may be in hopes to Regulate the Practice. Then you may prescribe Rules to prevent the three pretending Parties to this Faculty from incroaching upon one another, and those that have no pretence at all from Engrossing the whole. Then you may be in hopes to see an Establishment for *Physick* as well as the other great Professions that are so happily Settled ; and that you may have as many Men of Worth to take care of your *Bodies* as of your *Souls*, or *Estates* ; but as long as these are wanting, and such taking Baits in *Church* and *State*, so many thousands a Year for the *Law* and *Gospel*, and all the Certainty in *Physick* amounts but to 3 small Salaries at most, which are all thought now too little for one ; you must not expect many Volunteers to depend all the days of their Life upon the Chymical Humour of the People ; they must still go on in that Servile Custom of doing every thing for present Fee, which often overcomes those whose wants or desires are not easily bounded, and makes them stoop to mean and Scandalous shifts to support a Reputation, sometimes at the Expence of their Judgment and their Patients Health.

These are Faults I hope you will think worth your while to Redress ; you have sometimes Selected Committees upon less Occasions, and Societies have been set up to Reform less Abuses. You have now an Opportunity which perhaps may not offer it self in some Years again, and I believe I may promise so far without pretending to Prophecy that you can never in so small a Matter do a greater Service to your Country, nor better pay your Court to so great a

Patron of Learning as you have now the happiness to Enjoy for a Governour ; you see with what Reputation a Neighbouring Monarch supports his Tyrannick Power by (doing nothing that is good, except) Encouraging all manner of *Liberal Arts* and *Sciences* ; and that this has been a Fundamental in his Politicks thro' the whole Course of his Reign : What then may we not expect from a Government where nothing else is wanting.

Now some perhaps may think this Address had been more properly prefer'd to some of the Rich and the Learned, whose Fortunes have been raised by their Studies and Preferment, and whose Affluence of all things put them to a stand how to dispose of their Riches : But in *Physick* there are scarce above 2 or 3 in an Age able to support a Family ; How far the Gentlemen of the *Law* may favour this Project I can't tell ; And I cou'd not so reasonably apply my self to the Fathers of the Church for Promotion of these *Secular Studies*, since they may have enough upon their Hands to intend the Rights of the Church, and the Advancement of the *Inferior Clergy*, if ever they hope to see the Nation Reduced to one Religion, or else I might have found Patrons amongst them sufficiently Qualified in both these Faculties to Judge of their usefulness as well as Deficiencies : yet there is one Argument that makes for their Advantage ; this wou'd take off some of those Numbers which are like to be a dead weight upon their Hands, they wou'd not have so many Candidates for one Cure, nor be so often Importun'd contrary to their inclinations ; but besides, this wou'd be too great a Demand from any Private Purse, and since it wou'd be a Publick Advantage it ought to have its Rise from the Publick Stock : And if a small Foundation were once laid, who knows what might

might follow, when Sir R. B. has finish't his Collection of *Statutes*, and built up his College at *D.* you may then have that for a Nursery for the young Probationers in each Faculty; and Transplant 'em hither for polite Accomplishments, and the benefit of Practice. Till then it may not be amiss to do something of your selves if any thing I have said has but the least appearance of Truth.

And now *Sir* in more haste than I cou'd wish, tho' perhaps too late, I have given you a rude thought Extorted on a sudden by some Accidental Discourse at your own Table, when I hope you were better imploy'd than to take Notice of any Resentment that may guide you to a Guest at the Author; for he is very sensible he has highly disoblged all the Quacks, Scriblers, and Petty-Foggers in the Nation; Engaged the Fire of a whole Class of Second-Rate-Wits a bout his Ears; And perhaps raised the Spleen of some he never designed to provoke: And if after all he can't be able to touch some of that Honourable House, because they have gone on so long without these Helps, and have not been Personal Sufferers themselves to let 'em see that he bears no Malice in his Heart, and that their Negligence can't overcome his good Nature, the worst he wishes 'em is only a *Chancery-Suit* by Inheritance that may last them for Life, and when their Bodies are worn down as low as their Purfes, they may at last have the good Fortune to chuse the Learned and Judicious Dr. *John Whalley* for their Physician, and the Incomparable Dr. *Phenix* for their Apothecary.

